



Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

William S. Kirk, Iron Ore Commodity Specialist

U.S. Geological Survey

989 National Center

Reston, VA 20192

Telephone: (703) 648-4962, Fax: (703) 648-7757

E-mail: wkirk@usgs.gov

Nicholas Muniz (Data)

Telephone: (703) 648-7980

Fax: (703) 648-7975

MINES FaxBack: (703) 648-4999

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

IRON ORE IN MAY 2000

U.S. mine production of iron ore in May 2000 was 13% higher than that of the prior month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Shipments increased by 6% and mine stocks decreased by

6%. Consumption and trade data for May 2000 will be included in a subsequent issue.

TABLE 1
U.S. PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE 1/
(Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more of manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Production		Shipments	
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date
1999:				
May	5,473	24,943	6,117	18,082
June	5,047	29,990	5,935	24,017
July	5,249	35,239	5,942	29,959
August	3,872	39,111	5,572	35,531
September	3,334	42,445	5,380	40,911
October	4,439	46,884	5,298	46,209
November	5,231	52,115	5,616	51,825
December	5,295	57,410	6,046	57,871
2000:				
January	4,955	4,955	3,822	3,822
February	4,986	9,940	962	4,784
March	5,028	14,968	2,846	7,630
April	5,010	19,978	5,978	13,607
May	5,637	25,615	6,347	19,954

1/ Excludes byproduct ore.

TABLE 2
U.S. PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS, AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE IN MAY 1/ 2/

(Thousand metric tons)

District	Production		Shipments 3/		Stocks 4/	
	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999
Lake Superior:						
Michigan	1,360	1,350	1,499	1,360	3,732	4,652
Minnesota	4,278	4,123	4,848	4,757	7,776	8,218
Total	5,637	5,473	6,347	6,117	11,508	12,870

1/ Excludes byproduct ore.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

3/ Includes rail and vessel.

4/ Includes mines, plants, and loading docks.

TABLE 3
CANADA: SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE

(Thousand dry metric tons)

Period	Newfoundland	Quebec	British Columbia	Total 1/
1999:				
April	1,485	1,236	7	2,727
May	2,236	1,316	10	3,562
June	1,210	1,356	7	2,573
July	2,102	1,266	6	3,373
August	1,164	1,390	6	2,561
September	2,636	1,150	8	3,794
October	1,717	1,623	7	3,347
November	2,485	1,387	9	3,881
December	1,515	1,468	8	2,991
Year total	18,032	15,036	85	33,153
2000:				
January	857	1,131	9	1,997
February	1,475	716	7	2,197
March	726	1,022	7	1,756
April	1,785	1,122	9	2,915

1/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Natural Resources Canada.

TABLE 4
CONSUMPTION AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE AND
BLAST FURNACE PRODUCTION OF HOT METAL AT U.S. IRON AND STEEL PLANTS 1/ 2/

(Thousand metric tons)

Consumption by source	Consumption of ores and agglomerates			
	April		January-April	
	2000	1999	2000	1999
United States ores	5,182	4,570	20,009	18,115
Canadian ores	577	457	2,482	1,839
Foreign ores	548	456	2,277	1,809
Total	6,307	5,484	24,769	21,764
Consumption by process				
Blast furnaces	5,789	4,952	22,563	19,647
Steel furnaces	5	6	18	22
Agglomerating plants 3/	512	525	2,188	2,092
Miscellaneous 4/	--	--	--	2
Total	6,307	5,484	24,769	21,764
Storage point	Stocks of ores and agglomerates			
	April 30			
	2000	1999		
Furnace yards	9,675	12,335		
Receiving/transfer docks	1,813	2,435		
Total consumer	11,487	14,770		
Hot metal and pig iron produced in blast furnaces	Blast furnace production of hot metal			
	April		January-April	
	2000	1999	2000	1999
Hot metal and pig iron produced in blast furnaces	4,301	3,771	16,911	14,826
No. of blast furnaces operating on the last day of the month	36	32	XX	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

1/ Includes agglomerates.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

3/ Iron ore and iron ore concentrates consumed in agglomerating plants not located at the mine or plant site.

4/ Sold to nonreporting companies or used for purposes not listed.

Sources: American Iron Ore Association (consumption of iron ore) and American Iron and Steel Institute (production of hot metal and pig iron).

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF IRON ORE, BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION AND TYPE 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of destination and type	1999		2000			
	3rd quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter	February	March	April
Canada	1,806	1,521	724	112	166	458
Mexico	(2/)	(2/)	1	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)
Other	2	9	9	(2/)	1	(2/)
Total 3/	1,808	1,530	734	113	167	458
Pellets	1,796	1,498	722	112	165	443
Other	13	31	10	1	2	15
Total 3/	1,808	1,530	734	113	167	458

1/ Includes agglomerates.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

3/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE, BY COUNTRY AND TYPE 1/
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

Country of origin and type of product	2000					1999
	April		January-April			January-April
	Thousand metric tons	Value 2/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 2/ (thousand dollars)	Value 2/ (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Australia	63	502	178	1,688	9.48	274
Brazil	601	15,334	2,255	58,175	25.80	1,427
Canada	755	22,572	1,730	53,944	31.18	947
Finland	--	--	3	104	34.67	3
Mexico	(3/)	7	3	57	19.00	3
Norway	--	--	7	182	26.00	--
Peru	--	--	25	362	14.48	39
Spain	--	--	--	--	--	(3/)
Sweden	--	--	98	3,057	31.19	--
Trinidad and Tobago 4/	--	--	25	2,282	91.28	--
Venezuela	62	1,490	169	4,816	28.50	160
Other	--	--	--	--	--	75
Total 5/	1,481	39,904	4,493	124,667	27.75 6/	2,928
Concentrates	--	--	--	--	--	131
Coarse ore	--	--	3	104	34.67	146
Fine ores	346	5,715	1,336	26,285	19.67	1,271
Pellets	1,065	33,011	3,056	95,274	31.18	1,058
Briquettes	--	--	--	--	--	93
Other agglomerates	70	1,179	98	3,003	30.64	226
Roasted pyrites	--	--	--	--	--	3
Total 5/	1,481	39,904	4,493	124,667	27.75 6/	2,928

-- Zero.

1/ Includes agglomerates.

2/ Customs value. Excludes international freight, insurance, and other c.i.f. charges.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

4/ All or part of these data have been referred to the Bureau of the Census for verification.

5/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

6/ Weighted average calculated by dividing total value by total tonnage.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 7
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE IN APRIL 2000
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese) 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of origin	Type of product						Total 2/
	Concentrates	Coarse ores	Fine ores	Pellets	Briquettes and other agglomerates	Roasted pyrites	
Australia	--	--	63	--	--	--	63
Brazil	--	--	283	318	--	--	601
Canada	--	--	--	685	70	--	755
Mexico	--	--	--	--	(3/)	--	(3/)
Venezuela	--	--	--	62	--	--	62
Total 2/	--	--	346	1,065	70	--	1,481

-- Zero.

1/ Includes agglomerates.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS, BY COUNTRY

Country of origin	2000					1999
	April		January-April			January-April
	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Value 1/ (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Brazil	318	10,121	1,079	31,985	29.64	324
Canada	685	21,400	1,660	52,772	31.79	666
Peru	--	--	25	362	14.48	--
Sweden	--	--	98	3,057	31.19	--
Trinidad and Tobago 2/	--	--	25	2,282	91.28	--
Venezuela	62	1,490	169	4,816	28.50	67
Total 3/	1,065	33,011	3,056	95,274	31.18 4/	1,058

-- Zero.

1/ Customs value. Excludes international freight, insurance, and other c.i.f. charges.

2/ All or part of these data have been referred to the Bureau of the Census for verification.

3/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

4/ Weighted average calculated by dividing total value by total tonnage.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 9
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE,
BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT 1/
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district	April	January-April	
	2000	2000	1999
Baltimore, MD (13)	347	1,111	1,128
Chareleston, SC (16)	--	--	79
Chicago, IL (39)	73	99	185
Cleveland, OH (41)	97	97	50
Detroit, MI (38)	206	229	75
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	--	31	26
Laredo, TX (23)	--	5	--
Los Angeles, CA (27)	--	--	(2/)
Mobile, AL (19)	551	1,678	202
New Orleans, LA (20)	207	1,239	1,174
Nogales, AZ (26)	(2/)	3	3
Philadelphia, PA (11)	--	--	3
Total 3/	1,481	4,493	2,928

-- Zero.

1/ Includes agglomerates.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

3/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 10
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS,
BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district	April	January-April	
	2000	2000	1999
Baltimore, MD (13)	71	301	348
Chareleston, SC (16)	--	--	52
Chicago, IL (39)	73	73	54
Cleveland, OH (41)	97	97	26
Detroit, MI (38)	206	229	75
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	--	31	26
Mobile, AL (19)	551	1,652	202
New Orleans, LA (20)	67	673	274
Total 1/	1,065	3,056	1,058

-- Zero.

1/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Bureau of the Census.